



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 5/20/2002

GAIN Report # YI2007

Yugoslavia

Grain and Feed

Grain and Oilseeds Update

Vojvodina Drought Status

2002

Approved by:

Holly Higgins

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

FAS Regional Staff

Report Highlights:

Dry spring weather is continuing in Serbia. The hardest hit area is the breadbasket of Vojvodina in the north. Both spring planting and winter crops are suffering from warm, dry conditions. Central and southern Serbia are in better shape with localized rainfall over the past month.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Sofia [BU1], YI

Weather

According to Serbian meteorologists, warm, dry weather will continue throughout May. At the end of April, the Federal Weather Bureau forecast some rain for early May. However, as of mid-May, no significant rainfall was reported in Serbia, only some very limited, localized showers in central/south Serbia. Thus, hot, dry conditions prevail, especially in Vojvodina.

As of May 10, Vojvodina had received only 50 percent of the 30 year average normal rainfall during this time period. Spring grain crops (corn, sunflowerseed) are suffering during the planting stage. Damages are reported to the winter crops (wheat, barley) as well.

From 10-22nd May, the forecast is for dry weather with some local showers in Vojvodina, while from the 22-24th May storms with hail are predicted. From the 24-27th May occasional rain is expected and from 27-31st May, very dry and warm weather is forecast with temperatures of around 17-25 degrees Celsius.

Because of dry weather in east and west Vojvodina (Banat and Backa) some farmers were forced to replant winter crops and even –in some areas– spring crops. Land is so dry in some parts of Vojvodina that winter crops are no longer developing. There are some reports of spring crops not emerging.

WHEAT

According to Serbian agricultural experts even if the situation improves over the next two weeks, damage of the winter crops is very likely. Wheat heads are reported to be much smaller than usual. The crop stand height is below average, and in many parts of Vojvodina the wheat has already turned yellow with early maturity.

Expected average yield for MY2002 for wheat was forecast at 3.2 mt/HA. Yields will be reduced but by what degree, it is not yet clear. This would lower the total production forecast now at 2.5 million metric tons in MY2002.

SUNFLOWER SEED

Dry conditions delayed planting of sunflowerseed this year. Planting started slowly two weeks ago, but experts note that this is almost two weeks later than normal and took place in very dry conditions. As of mid-May a total of 160,000 HA out of a forecast 170,000 HA were planted. Emergence has begun, but with difficulties in some of parts of Vojvodina (especially East -Banat and West -Backa).

SOYBEANS

Total of 120,000 HA was planted with soybeans this spring. Planting was completed last week with some delays due to very dry soil conditions. Dry weather is hindering normal sprouting of the soybean crop. Vojvodina farmers were hoping for rainfall of at least 20 mm per square meter, but this did not occur. Thus, early stage dryness has slowed emergence.

RAPSEED

Rapeseed is not a significant crop in Serbia, with area planted totalling, on average, between 13-16,000 Ha per year. This year 15,000 HA, in Vojvodina was planted with rapeseed. No damage to the crop has been reported.

CORN

Planting of commercial corn was completed in Vojvodina and Serbia by May 15. Corn was planted on total area of 1,200,000 HA. In spite of dry weather and lack of humidity, crop development is reportedly normal, except in some parts of Banat (East Vojvodina). Root establishment is reported to be good and, the corn stands currently have between 3-8 leaves depending when the crop was planted. If dry weather continues for another month, the corn crop could also suffer.